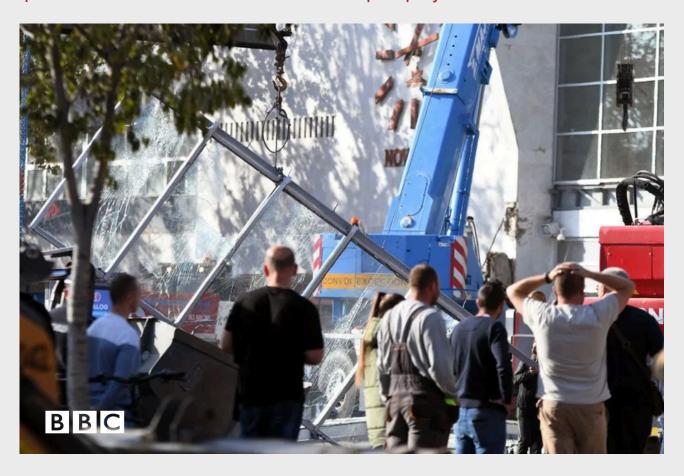


## HOW IS THE POTENTIAL CHINESE INVESTOR IN ANAKLIA LINKED TO THE TRAGIC INCIDENT IN SERBIA THAT LEFT 14 PEOPLE DEAD?

The incident in Serbia, which led to the tragic loss of 14 lives, occurred at a railway station renovated by the same company now considered a potential Chinese investor in the Anaklia port project.



On November 1, 2024, a fatal incident occurred at an infrastructure project in Serbia <u>led by</u> the Chinese consortium, China Railway International Co. Ltd and China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC). The collapse of the roof at the Novi Sad railway station resulted in the <u>deaths</u> of 14 people, with the number of injured reaching 30.

The incident <u>sparked</u> public outrage and mass protests, during which participants demanded the resignation of the Minister of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure, Goran Vesic. A few days later, Vesic <u>resigned</u>, although the investigation into the incident has raised doubts.

It should be noted that at the beginning of 2024, a local Serbian organization <u>requested</u> the "Ministry of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure" to disclose the contract with the Chinese companies involved. However, the Ministry <u>declined</u>, citing the Chinese company's unwillingness to share the contract with third parties until the project's completion. Notably, by this time, the railway station was already <u>facing</u> technical issues, such as leaks from the roof.

As a result of the incident, public attention turned to the Chinese consortium involved in the station's rehabilitation process, which, with government support, has so far avoided accepting responsibility. Both Serbian officials and representatives of the Chinese companies <u>stated</u> that resurfacing the station was not part of the work carried out between 2021 and 2024. However, it is worth noting that, in 2021, authorities did <u>not specify</u> which parts of the station were included in the rehabilitation plan.

Interestingly, on November 5, in the days following this fatal incident, Serbian Prime Minister Miloš Vusevic was on an <u>official visit</u> to China. Vusevic, in response to questions and doubts about the Chinese companies participating in the project, stated that he <u>would not join</u> the 'potential anti-Chinese hysteria.

We kindly remind you that Chinese company CCCC is a potential investor in the Anaklia deep-sea port construction project. Following the Georgian government's initiative to include the Chinese company CCCC in this strategic project, Civic IDEA published a comprehensive <u>report</u> on its international reputation and proven involvement in numerous scandals worldwide. The case in Serbia further <u>highlights</u> that the company's activities lack transparency and are associated with many risks.

